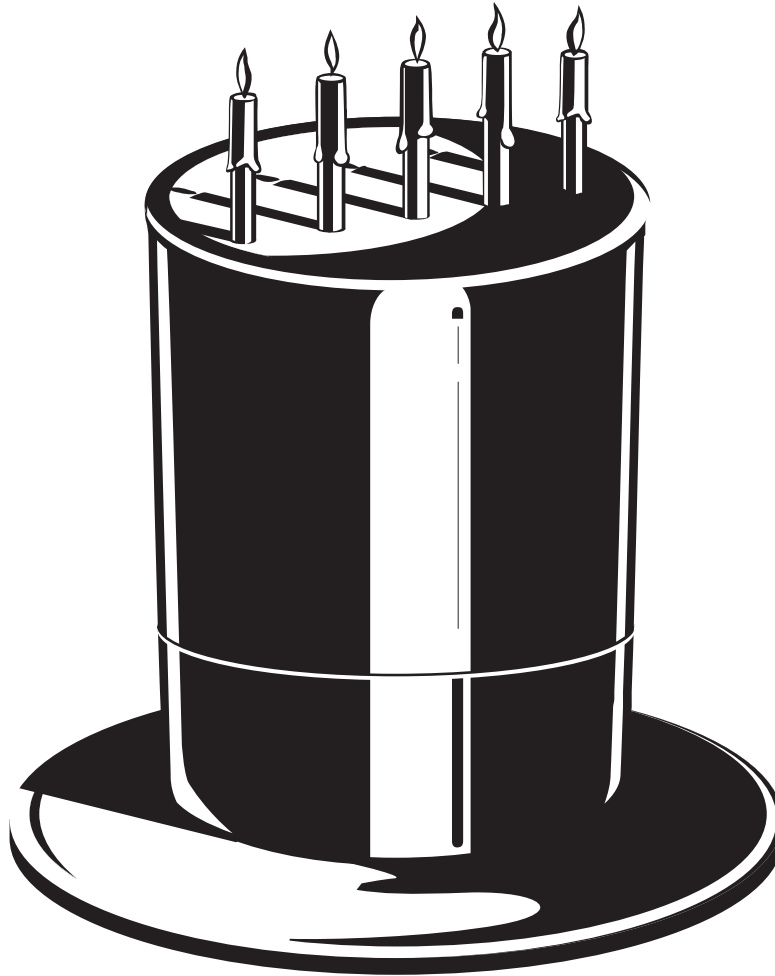
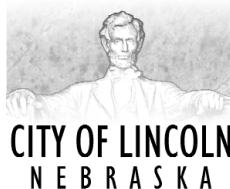


# *Happy Birthday, Abe!* *2005*



Sunday, February 20, 2005  
North Star High School  
Lincoln, Nebraska

PRESENTED BY



## **Media Partners:**

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# *Abraham Lincoln Birthday Celebration*

## **AUDITORIUM SCHEDULE**

Emcees: Mayor Coleen J. Seng and Cleve Reeves, Chair,  
Abraham Lincoln Birthday Celebration Steering Committee

<b>2:30 p.m.</b>	<b>"In Thinking of America," Act One</b> <i>Robert Trentham and Richard Pearson Thomas</i>
<b>3:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Intermission</b>
<b>3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>"In Thinking of America," Act Two</b>
<b>4:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Intermission</b>
<b>4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>"Farewell from Springfield"</b> <i>Fritz Klein and Joyce Browning as President Abraham and First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln</i>

<p>These programs will be aired over the next few weeks on 5 CITY-TV, Time Warner Cable channel 5. For schedule information, see <a href="http://lincoln.ne.gov">lincoln.ne.gov</a>.</p>
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## **SCHEDULE FOR COMMONS AREA**

Noon to 6 p.m.	Children's games, toys, and activities; historical exhibits; souvenirs for sale; free apples, Pepsi products and birthday cake.
Noon to 2 p.m.	Dancing with the Smith Family Band
1 and 1:30 p.m.	Story Time with Virginia Opocensky in Theater
2 p.m.	Birthday Ceremony with Mayoral Proclamation, sponsors' remarks, impersonators awards
4:15 to 5:45 p.m.	Traditional Music with Chris Sayre

## **IMPERSONATORS CONTEST**

Contestants in the Abe Lincoln Impersonators Contest can register at the east information desk from noon to 1:30 p.m. Judging will take place at 1:30 p.m., and contestants should meet at the information desk. Awards will be presented during the 2 p.m. Birthday Ceremony. Gifts will be presented to all contestants, with a special prize for the top impersonator.



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## ROBERT TRENTHAM



Robert Trentham has sung with regional theater and opera companies throughout the country and has been a soloist at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center and the Philadelphia Academy of Music. He was inspired to create "In Thinking of America" after researching his own family's involvement in the Civil War. He was able to identify 30 ancestors who had fought on both sides of the war. "In Thinking of America" combines letters, speeches and social

commentary of the Civil War with songs from the era. It debuted at the Gettysburg Civil War Heritage Days Festival. The California-based tenor has recorded a CD entitled "Epitaph - A Collection of Civil War Songs." Songs from that recording have been selected for The Civil War Experience™, a CD-ROM developed by SouthPeak Interactive™ in conjunction with The History Channel® and the Civil War Preservation Trust®. Trentham graduated with honors from the University of California at Santa Barbara. More information is available at [geocities.com/rdtrentham](http://geocities.com/rdtrentham).

## RICHARD PEARSON THOMAS



Composer and pianist Richard Pearson Thomas is a native of Montana and a graduate of the Eastman School of Music. Many companies, including the Boston Pops and the Convent Garden Festival in London, have staged and performed his compositions. His work includes "Golden Gate," a musical commissioned for the Second Stage Theater, one of New York's leading Off-Broadway companies; the musical "Ladies in a Maze" for the Encompass Music Theatre; and the

music for "What Became Known as...the Eleanor Affair," which earned the Best Original Score award at the 1997 NYU Film Festival. Thomas is composer-in-residence of the Gold Opera Project, Young Audiences/New York, which received the 1994 National Medal of the Arts. He also has worked with singers worldwide and served as coach/music director for the Aspen Music Festival and the Yale School of Music.

## SMITH FAMILY BAND



Back for the fourth year is the Smith Family Band of Hastings – parents Pam and Tim and their son Jeremy. Son Erik is also a member, but he now lives in Santa Monica, California and is unable to be with us today. The family has been performing together since the boys started playing

violin in first grade. In addition to playing for Civil War reenactments, the Smiths play bluegrass, gospel, classical, Irish, renaissance, wedding, traditional dance and holiday music. Pam is a Dance Mistress, providing instruction in the old dances. The family also has performed and taught American pioneer songs and dances as Artists-in-Residence in Japan. The band specializes in audience participation and lots of fun for everyone! The Smith Family Band has released a CD entitled "Millennium," a collection of 17 of their favorite selections.

## JOYCE BROWNING & FRITZ KLEIN



We are pleased to welcome Joyce Browning and Fritz Klein who performed together for the first time in Lincoln at our 2004 Celebration.

Browning is from Charleston, West Virginia and has been portraying Mary Todd Lincoln since 1996. She considers it an honor to portray Mrs. Lincoln and believes the First Lady has been unjustly criticized since her days in the White House. Browning's goal is to bring to life the truth about Mary. She is a member of the

Association of Lincoln Presenters and won the Association's "Outstanding Mary Lincoln Award" for 2002.

In 2002, she received the Patriot's Award from the National Heritage Academics, and in 1999, she took the top prize in a portrayals contest at the Lincoln Days Celebration in Hodgenville, Kentucky. She has performed in six states and for both the House of Representatives and the Senate in West Virginia.

Klein, who also performed at our Celebration in 2002, has been portraying President Lincoln since 1976. He is considered by many to be one of the nation's foremost Lincoln actors, appearing in 35 states for film and television, on stage and as a motivational speaker. A professional actor since 1980, he has the same height, weight and physical appearance as Abraham Lincoln, which brings both professionalism and realism to the role. The audience experiences not just Lincoln's look, but also his speech patterns, mannerisms and original words. Klein resides in Springfield, Illinois where he performs for some of the city's 500,000 annual visitors. More information is available at [LincolnInstitute.com](http://LincolnInstitute.com).

## CHRIS SAYRE



Lincoln native Chris Sayre has dedicated more than 25 years to the performance and promotion of traditional and contemporary folk music. He is self-taught on more than a dozen instruments. In addition to performing with several groups, he has performed nationally at more than 1,000 schools and is in his 19th season in the Artists in Schools/Communities Program, co-sponsored by the Nebraska Arts Council (NAC). He was recently honored by the NAC for his years of participation. Chris contributed to the soundtracks of two nationally

aired PBS documentaries and a third NET documentary. He was honored by Lincoln radio station KZUM as Artist of the Year in 2000 and Folk Artist of the Year in 1999, 2000 and 2001. His group Paddywhack won the KZUM award for World Artists of the Year in 2000, 2001 and 2002, and Chris was the first inductee into the KZUM Hall of Fame. He has earned top honors at the Nebraska State Country Music Championship in Springfield and the Westfair Championships in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Chris has two CDs available – "Falcon Rust" and "Whacked Out" with Paddywhack.



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Special thanks to the Lincoln Community Playhouse, Nebraska Public Radio  
and the UNL Theatre Department.

## THOSE WHO SERVED

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Diane Gonzolas

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Ed Zimmer

